

# The Bethel Courier.

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BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## ANNUAL FUND RECORD SET

The 1996 Bethel Historical Society Annual Fund Campaign raised a record \$10,548 from 382 donors, also another record. Much appreciation is expressed to all who made this possible and to the Annual Fund Committee chaired by Margaret Joy Tibbetts with the assistance of Barbara D. Brown, John B. Head, Alden Kennett, and Louise Lincoln. Donors in 1996 included: Avery & Mary Angevine, Bethel; Ernest and Alberta Angevine, Bethel; Roland Annis, Bethel, in memory of Louise Annis; J. Maynard Austin, Bennington, VT; Al and Lee Barth, Bethel; Otis J. Bartlett, Berlin, NH; Urban & Neda Bartlett, Bethel; Ruth Bean, Springfield, VT; Bessie Bennett, Bethel, in memory of Lester Bennett & Sandra Mason; Francine Lake Bergman, Key Colony, FL; Mary Lou & "Hi" Berry, Bethel, in memory of Eva Chapman, Rodney Eames & Helen C. Berry; Richard and Jacqueline Blaisdell, Merrimack, NH, in memory of Boris & Ervil Kennett; Elizabeth Blake, Bethel, in memory of Ernest Blake; Linona Blake, West Paris, in memory of Clayton L. Blake; Gwyneth and Ken Bohr, Bethel, in memory of Donald Brown; Boise Cascade, Rumford; Melody and Garret Bonema, Bethel; Florine E. Bowden, Bethel, in memory of Robert S. York; Dorothy F. Brinck, South Paris; Carl & Lettie Brooks, West Paris; Charles D. Brooks, Riverside, CA; Arlene G. Brown, Bethel, in memory of Donald S. Brown; Beatrice B. Brown, Bethel; John K. Brown, Bethel, in memory of Donald S. Brown; Barbara W. Bryant, Scarborough, in memory of Richard N. Bryant; Gurdon S. Buck, Watertown, MA, in memory of Carl Tucker; Jeremiah S. & Abby L. Burns, Salem, MA; Arthur and Mary Burt, Rockville, MD; Catherine L. Bush, Belmont, MA, in memory of Edward and Barbara Lyon; Donald W. and Mary S. Calderwood, Mesa, AZ, in memory of Norman and Hester Sanborn; The Cameron House, Bethel; Judith and Lee Carroll, Gorham, NH, in memory of Alton F. & Mary C. Carroll; Stephen and Lynda Chandler, Bethel; Albert S. Chapman, Harbert, MI; Daphne A. Chapman, Peabody, MA, in memory of Philip Sheridan Chapman, Jr.; Ethel Chapman & Irene Sessions, Bethel, in memory of Augustus & Mary Lemere; Frank & Rosalind Chapman, Bethel; Donald M. Christie, Jr., Poughkeepsie, NY; Donald & Dorothy Christie, Gray; Edith Kirk Clemens, Mansfield, OH, in honor of all those who have contributed to the Society's success; Adaline S. Clough, Bethel; Fillmore & Shirley Clough, Bethel, in memory of Irving (Blackie) Cummings; Carolyn M. Colby, Bethel, in memory of Zenus & Mary Mills; Howard and Virginia Cole, Bethel; Eva and Rupert Conroy, Auburn, in memory of Sylvia Conroy; Edith M. Coolidge, Bethel, in memory of Agnes Haines; Stan & Avis Coolidge, Oxford, in memory of Jim and Joan

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*A group attending the 1896 celebration of the centenary of Bethel's incorporation poses on Main Street in front of Allen's Store (now the home of Society member Annie Hastings) decorated for the occasion with patriotic bunting.*

## CELEBRATIONS, FESTIVALS AND OBSERVANCES IN BETHEL'S PAST

*by Stanley Russell Howe*

In March 1855, according to the *Oxford Democrat*, there was an antiquarian supper held in Bethel, sponsored by the Bethel Farmer's Club. It undoubtedly was the brainchild of Dr. Nathaniel Tuckerman True (1812-1887), Gould Academy and Farmer's Club movement founder and avid local historian. As far as can be determined, this is the first significant event to honor the past in Bethel's history.

The purpose of the evening in the labored and flowery prose of the day was to "treasure up their meaning, to record their deeds, to celebrate their praise, to imitate their patriotic and virtuous example, to rehearse their legends, to recall the customs, sufferings and relics should be the high ambition of their sons." Such was the state of local history in Bethel at the time.

The supper was modest enough by modern standards: "veritable bean porridge, pumpkin pie, fire cake, parched corn and sage tea." This was followed by a blessing from Peter Twitchell, who was in his 95th year. Everyone dressed in old clothing with music afterwards by a group called the Old Folks Choir.

In the article written for the *Democrat*, undoubtedly composed by True, he described a wide variety of artifacts from the past on display. He began by stating his regret that there were no Mayflower relics to be seen, but there

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(Celebration, continued from page 1)

was an ancient plate belonging to General Putnam, a mug purchased and used at the Battle of Bunker Hill, a porcelain tea canister owned by Dr. Moses Mason, earthen and silver ware, an old-fashioned bonnet, hat and cloak, an arithmetic and Latin grammar once owned by Rev. Daniel Gould, a copy of a pamphlet, "Consideration on the Propriety of Imposing Taxes in the British Colonies, for the purpose of raising a revenue by Act of Parliament," a 1771 catalog of Harvard College, a 1766 Benjamin Franklin manuscript, the first Thanksgiving sermon delivered in Bethel by Rev. Caleb Bradley in 1798, various old coins, linen spun 88 years ago, a wedding shoe 80 years old, a tea canister over 100 years old, an Indian pestle unearthed when the railroad was built in the 1850s, a set of Revolutionary War sleeve buttons, a box made by Molly Ockett, and the first scythe used in town.

In addition to the artifacts assembled, a number of historical milestones were recalled. The first wagon arrived in town in 1811. Dr. Moses Mason's house was the first one painted white. The first grist and saw mills in town were built in 1774. The first barrel of York flour brought to town was in 1824. Eli Twitchell kept the first store in town. He also arrived in town having carried his daughter twenty miles in his arms. In 1808, Eliphaz Chapman was the first state legislator to represent Bethel. The first school was opened in town in 1800. The first meeting house in town was built in 1806. The first family to winter in town was that of Samuel Ingalls in 1776.

The next major observance appears to be the Centennial of 1874, celebrating the 100th anniversary of settlement, which was held in August of that year. There was a grand parade with Civil War veteran Major Gideon Hastings as the Grand Marshall. It included Indians, hunters, trappers, "pioneers" with axes, carriages with men making shingles, dressing flax, stripping brush broom, as well as a postal rider with tin horn, antique carriages and costumes, members of the Twitchell family, Bethel's oldest citizens (Edward Dean, age 90), President of the Day, Abenathy Grover, Vice Presidents of the Day (Selectmen of Bethel and Hanover), invited guests, 13 young ladies representing the original colonies, 16 misses in a carriage symbolizing the "Coming Woman," and the Norway Brass Band. The assemblage adjourned to Dr. True's at the end of Broad Street after the parade where 2000 seats were available for picnicking. Governor Dingley was not present, but a letter was read in his absence by Richard A. Frye. Letters were also read from Bethel natives Governor Lafayette Grover of Oregon and Hon. Cullen Carter, a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives from New York.

An 1874 historical booklet, largely composed by Dr. True, was published as a result of this event. It is a rich source of history for those doing research in Bethel's past.

Seven years later, the centenary of what has been termed "New England's last Indian Raid" was commemorated in 1881. Once more the planning centered around Dr. True, assisted by Addison E. Herrick, Dr. Francis Tuell, Goodwin R. Wiley, and Dr. True's son Alfred. A mock Indian attack committee consisting of William E. Skillings, Leander T. Barker, Addison E. Herrick, W.S. Wight, Henry C. Barker, and Cyrus Wormell was organized. Once more the parade was led by Major Hastings followed by among others pioneers in costume and marchers in Apache cos-

tumes. A block house, contrary to historical fact, was built on the Common and burned. Dr. True gave a historical address in Kimball Park and a dance was held at Pattee's Hall on Spring Street. Estimates of crowd size ranged from 3000 to 4000.

Bethel's centennial of incorporation in 1896 appears to have been a rather casual affair. No mention of any observance appears in the newspapers of the era until the spring of that year, so it is clear that it did not have many months of preparations.

Capt. R. B. Grover of Brocton, MA seems to have been the catalyst for initiating a celebration by sending a generous donation. The Selectmen responded to this generosity by appointing a committee consisting of a president, Judge Enoch Woodbury along with chief marshal Major Hastings, who was assisted by Samuel B. Twitchell, I.G. Kimball, John Barker, T. H. Chapman, Eldridge G. Wheeler, and E. C. Bean.

Various committees were established including Procession, Reception, Decoration, Entertainment, Antiquarian, and Invitations. A triumphal arch was erected at the foot of Broad Street. On one side, there was a sign, "Welcome to Our Guests" and on the other "Home Sweet Home." Houses and businesses were heavily decorated, mostly in red, white and blue bunting.

In a corner of the Cole Block, there were displays of antiques and curiosities, including the gun Dr. Moses Mason's father used at the Battle of Bennington and a map of the Magalloway River drawn by Dr. Mason on birch bark.

Once more Major Hastings led the parade. He was described in the *Oxford Democrat* as appearing despite his seventy five years with "all the lustiness of youth." The parade featured Chandler's military and the Bryant's Pond Cadet bands. Participating were a large number of bicyclists, the Bethel Fire Department, Brown Post of the Grand Army of the Republic with cannons, the Bethel Police, Bethel schools and the Goddess of Liberty, merchants' floats, Indians, rangers, and carriages of guests and the press, including Holman Day, writing for the *Lewiston Journal*.

Following the parade, 3000 people had a bean supper at the Rialto, which once stood on Main Street on the site of Ruthie's. Here there were a number of activities, including the reading of a poem about Bethel by Mary C. Herrick.

A merry-go-round set up near the Odd Fellows Hall on Main Street was a major attraction during the Centennial events.

In summing up the observance, the Bethel News proclaimed that "a happier or more orderly throng of people never trod the streets of our town than on that occasion." More importantly in the paper's view there was "no sign of intoxication to mar the pleasures of the day."

The next major celebratory event seems to be "Our Boys Day," May 14, 1919, which was held to honor Bethel's participation in World War I. There was a long parade followed by an address on the Bethel Common by Gov. C. E. Milliken and the mayor of Portland, F.W. Hinckley. The parade included Gov. Milliken, Mayor Hinckley, the Boy Scouts with a large flag, Bethel soldiers and sailors, Bethel's War baby, Frank O'Neil Robertson, Sons of Veterans, Spanish War veterans, Civil War veterans,





An "Our Boys Day" float in front of the Bethel Railroad Station on May 14, 1919. At either end of the station in the background are the buildings of the Bethel Chair Company.

Columbia with Aides, Ladies of the Relief Corps in decorated autos, young ladies dressed up to represent different Allied nations, Bethel Grange, No. 56 float with Uncle Sam surrounded by various workmen, a Peace and Victory float, girls and boys agricultural clubs, Gould Academy, the Bethel public schools, the Red Cross in uniform, the Odd Fellows, decorated autos, etc. On the Common besides the major speakers there was a prayer by Rev. W.C. Curtis, an address of welcome by F.E. Hanscom, Gould principal, a response by Sgt. Elwin Wilson and the conferring of honors by First Selectman, Frank Brown. Later in the day, there was a baseball game between Gould Academy and Rumford followed in the evening by a picture show at Odeon Hall.

The Bethel observance of the 150th anniversary of "New England's Last Indian Raid" was held in August 1931 during the early years of the Great Depression. The fact that the anniversary of this event occurred during depressed times may explain why it attracted so much attention and has such a popular appeal since it provided inexpensive entertainment and a momentary distraction from the hardships of life in that period.

Plans were well underway by the spring of 1931 when the *Bethel Citizen* published a letter from George Twitchell, a descendant of Eleazor, the first settler of Bethel, which urged that the spirit of the early pioneers be kept alive in the celebration. The *Citizen* did much to promote the event, which was sponsored by the George A. Mundt Post of the American Legion.

Held on Monday, August 3, the exact anniversary of the event, the observance featured a midway set up on the Common and a 5th Infantry Band of fifty pieces was present. A baseball game between Bethel and Lovell was also played that day with Lovell winning 11-4. Dr. S.S. Greenleaf recruited Princess Wah-oo-ah, a singer who had toured Europe and performed at London's Royal Albert Hall, to render some music at William Rogers Chapman's house overlooking the Common to a very appreciative audience. Over three bushels of bean hole beans and one hundred pounds of hot dogs were served at the Congregational Church for 35 cents per serving. Clams and more baked beans were offered by the Legion on the Common. Tags were sold for a quarter to help with expenses. A big dance floor was laid near Rowe's store, now the area in front of the present fire station by Dr. Greenleaf and music was provided by the Maineonians of Farmington. There were also parachute jumping and airplane stunts.

A long parade was one of the features of the day with many representative figures and participation by many Bethel businesses and organizations. The famed fiddler Mellie Dunham and his wife were also part of the parade as

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

With the Society poised to launch a major Capital Campaign for a significant expansion of space, it was enlightening to me to become better acquainted with our current challenges. It is estimated by our staff that more than two thirds of our total collections are in storage and in some cases inaccessible.

Where are they? Besides our professional facilities, they are stored in the Director's barn, in the Curator's apartment, and in all parts of the Dr. Moses Mason House from closets to remote corners.

Many donors have never had their donations exhibited. Other potential donors have deferred until the Society is able to put their items on display or at least make them readily accessible.

Getting these hidden assets "out of the closet" so to speak and accessible to visitors and researchers is one of the important benefits we look forward to in the proposed expansion of facilities which will become the Bethel Historical Society's Center for Local and Regional History.

Walter Hatch

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Thomas R. Carter, Bethel  
Arlan R. and Eleanor L. Jodrey, Bethel  
Stephen C. Lockwood, McLean, VA

### (Celebration)

was a representation of Amos and Andy, portrayed by Vernon Brown and Albert Flanders. Fifty years later Brown would team up with Tony Pugliese to repeat this entry. Euphemia Hastings wore what was considered by some a scanty bathing suit on one of the floats, which became the talk of the town. The oldest man in town, William L. Chapman, and the oldest woman, Paulina Philbrook, were also in the parade as was the last survivor of the 20th Maine, Collins Morgan.

This event with its pageant which burned a building built for the occasion below the Gould campus probably attracted the largest crowd in Bethel history. Estimates put the total at 10,000, but that may have been exaggerated. In any case, the timing was good for this event, and everything was concentrated primarily on the Common and at the Gould site.

The next celebration started out modestly. In 1949, Phyllis Smith was badly hurt in a tractor accident. It was the desire to help Mrs. Smith with her medical bills that Norma Jodrey and Bea Brown (later Conrad) conceived the idea of a Bethel Bazaar. They solicited the support of the American Legion and with its sponsorship the event was held for the first time on the lot where the Irving Station is today on Mechanic Street. It raised \$1600.

With this start, a Community Welfare Fund was set up with Hugh Thurston as president and Kimball Ames as secretary/treasurer. Later a Bethel Health and Service Council ran the Bethel Bazaar on the Common and in other parts of the village.

It was at the suggestion of Alma Young in 1957 that the Bethel Bazaar became Molly Ockett Day. The previous

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## SOCIETY SALES DEPARTMENT

The Society maintains a selection of modestly priced gifts and historical publications. They may be ordered at the prices listed below. Maine residents must include 6% sales tax. Orders under \$10 should include \$1 for postage and handling; those over \$10 but under \$20 should include \$2 and all those over \$20 should add \$3 to cover mailing expenses.

1997 Calendars (New England Barns or Covered Bridges) \$9.95  
Moses Mason House Tile \$3.50

**Stationery** (package of ten sheets and ten envelopes) \$2 each  
(Moses Mason House, Bethel Railroad Station, Summer House, Bethel Covered Bridge)

**Booklets** (The Family Farm, Made in Bethel) 75 cents ea.

Dr. Moses Mason and His House \$1

Molly Ockett \$2

**Maps and Atlases**

1880 Map of Bethel Hill \$2

1880 Map of Town of Bethel \$2

1880 Map of Three Bethel Villages \$2

1878 Bird's Eye View of Bethel Hill \$1

1858 Atlas of Oxford County \$7.50

**T-Shirts**

Moses Mason Museum (Adult, S, M, L, XL) \$8

Moses Mason Museum (Child, 4-6-8-10-12-14) \$8

Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Adults, S, M, L, XL) \$8

Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Child, 4-6-8-10-12-14) \$8

**Post Cards:** Dr. Moses Mason, Agnes Mason, Moses Mason House 10 cents each

**Tote Bags** (Moses Mason Museum logo) small \$7.50 large \$11.50

**Placemats**, 4 season, set of four Bethel scenes \$7.50

**Books**

Barnes, *Maine Life: The Photographs of N.C. Maxim* \$16.99 Paper  
Bean, *East Bethel Road* \$50 Cloth

Bennett, *Bethel, Maine: An Illustrated History* \$39.95 Paper

Bennett, *Oxford County, Maine: A Guide to Its Historic Architecture* \$20 Paper

Bennett, *The White Mountains* \$14.99 Paper

Bethel, *Maine Cemeteries* \$9.50 Paper

Crosby, *From An Old Leather Trunk* \$5 Cloth

Crosby, *I Was A Summer Boarder* \$5 Cloth

Fraser, *A History of Maine Made Automobiles* \$34.95

Cloth \$24.95 Paper

Hathaway, *Everything Happened Around the Switchboard* \$13.95 Paper

Howe, *Concise History of the Maine State Grange* \$20 Cloth

Hubka, *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England* \$24.95 Paper

Hutchinson, *The Rumford Falls & Rangeley Lakes Railroad* \$20 Paper

Killgore, *Descendants of Joseph Killgore 1690-1764* \$65 Cloth

Lapham, *History of Bethel, Maine, 1768-1890* \$45 Cloth

Lapham, *History of Woodstock, Maine* \$19.95 Cloth

Little, *American Decorative Wall Painting 1700-1850* \$9.95 Paper

*Maine the Pine State: From Prehistory to the Present* \$29.95 Paper

Mills, *Genealogy of Samuel & Frances (Pembroke) Mills Family* \$5 Paper

Parkman, *The Gould Academy Story* \$7.50 Paper

Russell, *Indian New England Before the Mayflower* \$15.95 Paper

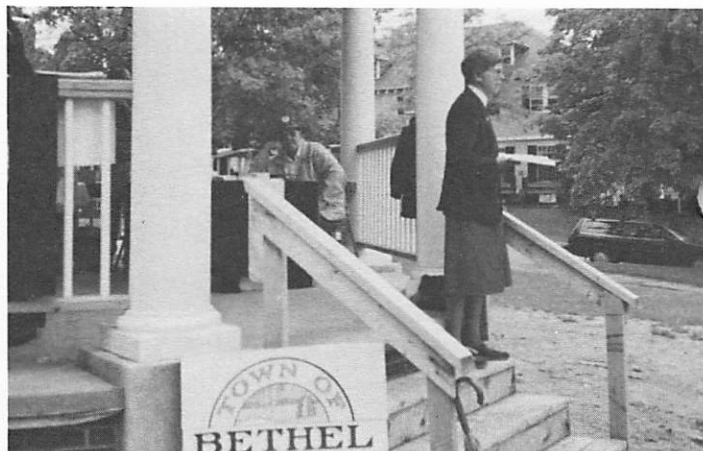
Shirrefs, *The Richardson Lakes* \$29.95 Quality Paperback \$39.95 Cloth

C. Wight, *A History of Newry* \$5 Paper

D. B. Wight, *Wild River Wilderness* \$5 Paper

P. Wight, *Newry Profiles* \$5 Paper

Members of the Bethel Historical Society are entitled to a 10% discount for purchases totaling \$10 or more. Please send orders to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012. If the items you ordered are in stock, they will be sent by return mail. For further information, please call toll free 1-800-824-2910.



*Margaret Joy Tibbetts, honorary chairman of the Bethel Bicentennial Committee, makes some appropriate remarks at ceremonies honoring the 200th anniversary of incorporation held at the Bethel Gazebo on June 10, 1996.*

*(Celebration, continued from page 3)*

year, the event was moved from August to July where it has remained ever since. There was no Molly Ockett Day in 1967 and 1968. The following year it was taken over by the Lion's Club, who has sponsored it ever since. It has become a Bethel institution frequently observed as a homecoming day for many people with Bethel ties.

In October 1971, the Bethel Historical Society undertook a celebration of the town's 175th anniversary of incorporation. This effort was headed by a committee headed by Elizabeth Mason Carter and Edward Quinn. It featured art and antique exhibits, a dinner at the Congregational Church, music and dancing illustrating the town's history by the White Mountain Echoes, a ladies barbershop group from Berlin, NH. There were also exhibits at the Middle Intervale Meeting House, an open house at the East Bethel Church, and a parade with lots of antique autos.

The 200th anniversary of the settlement of Bethel was commemorated in 1974 with a special edition of the Bethel Citizen. The opening of the Dr. Moses Mason House to the public was also commemorated by this special edition. On July 10, 1974, a dedicatory program with Robert Damm, Director of the Maine State Museum as featured speaker, remarks by Sidney Davidson and Margaret Joy Tibbetts, catered lunch, and music by the members of the Portland Symphony highlighted the day.

In 1976, a group of historical society members working with the National Bicentennial Commission took on the assignment of having a local celebration of the Nation's 200th birthday July 4 with a wide variety of activities that included an Odeon Hall contra dance, youth walking parade, field day for children, a baseball game, bicentennial church service, fireworks, militia muster, "Made in Bethel" exhibit and booklet, scavenger hunt, and a time capsule. Robert Keniston was the General Chair of this celebration. Bicentennial patches and cups were sold to raise funds.

On March 10, 1976, the exact date of the 125th anniversary of the arrival of rail service to Bethel, arrangements were made by Edward Quinn and John Davis to have Canadian National engine number 1776 come to Bethel and park on the side track to help commemorate this important milestone in the town's past. Despite the fact that it was a diesel engine, school children were thrilled to



be able to visit a real engine. The highlight of the afternoon was a lecture by railroad historian John Davis about the first arrival of the railroad in Bethel in 1851.

The year 1981 brought the 200th anniversary of Indian Raid. Planning for this commemoration started about one year earlier with lots of volunteers. It was sponsored by the historical society and featured a special edition of the Society's quarterly, *The Bethel Courier*. There were lots of militia units present from all over the Northeast, many exhibit areas, including the field house at Gould, Gen. Alger's barn and the Dr. Moses Mason House meeting room, a flower show at Garland Chapel, horse show, square dance, canoe races, militia mock battle, parade, pageant, and a special cancellation. General Alger was the honorary chairman. Crowds estimated at 2000-3000 attended, but there may have been more since the weekend had over forty events scattered throughout the town.

In 1993, I was appointed by Board of Selectmen to chair what would become the Bethel Bicentennial Committee to plan a series of events for 1996 when the town would observe its bicentenary of incorporation. A number of early fund-raisers including Patriots' Day events and a fashion show, plus \$4200 over those four years started the process financially for a year-long observance with some highlights focused in June and August. A whole series of bicentennial souvenirs were developed by the Committee to raise funds. Events ranged from militia encampments to a pageant, a house and garden tour to a parade as well as fireworks and lots of music. A special ceremony was held on Incorporation Day, June 10, 1996 with a proclamation read by Rep. Barth from Governor Angus King.

Over these 141 years, periodic celebrations, festivals, and special events have been an integral part of Bethel's past. Volunteers have made them all possible and we can only guess what they have contributed to civic pride and the quality of life of the town's inhabitants.

*(Annual Fund Donors, continued from page 1)*

Coolidge; Cynthia Cox, Perth, Scotland, UK; Barbara and Roland Crocker, Riverside, RI; Clayton & Lola Crockett, Bethel; Ruth H. Cummings, Bethel, in memory of Arthur J. Cummings; Gwen Currier, Oxford, in memory of John H. Currier; Rita H. Davis, Bethel; Robert & Pauline Davis, Bethel, in memory of Louise Annis; Dr. Thomas W. Dawson, Laconia, NH, in memory of William R. Dawson; Joan P. Detter, Santa Fe, NM, in memory of F.H. Penley; David E. Diano, La Canada, CA, in memory of Darius Adams Farwell; Stephen V. Dock & Carolyn A. Wilson, Greenville, NC, in memory of James Jonathan Dock; Dana & Barbara Douglass, Bethel; Elizabeth D. Duplisea, Gray, in memory of Lee Greenwood Duplisea; Mariann & Hugh Durgin, North Waterford, in memory of John E. Grover; Marianne H. Durgin, Belmont, MA, in memory of Alice Smith Hamilton; Diane Dyer, Westbrook, in memory of Roland Turgeon; Kenneth C. & Mary M. Eagleson, Beverly Hills, FL; Katheryn M. Eames, Cape Elizabeth; Shirley Bartlett Eby, Stockton, CA, in memory of James C. and Marguerite C. Bartlett; Robert L. & Mary E. Eichel, Worcester, MA, in memory of Don Brown; Rowland Evans, Jr., Washington, DC; Muriel I. Ewing, York, in memory of Levi Kilgore of North Newry; Howard & Alice Fales, West Redding, CT; Kenneth I. Farrell, Dover, NH, in memory of Dick Hastings; Muriel Faudi, Bethel, in memory of Henry W. Boyker; Ruth and Don Feeney, Bethel, in memory of Jay & Melva Willard; Norman and Barbara Ferguson, Hanover, in memory of the Silver Fox; Gordon A. Fish, St. Johnsbury,

## BOOK REVIEW

DESCENDANTS OF JOSEPH KILGORE, 1690-1764 OF SCOTLAND & TREWORGY ANCESTORS by Roy Killgore. (Privately published, 1996. 631 pp. Cloth \$65)

Curiosity sometimes leads to unpredicted turns in our life activities; so it was with Roy Killgore in 1971. Curious about his family background, he began asking questions of older relatives. That sent him on a search which turned into a twenty-five year quest for the descendants of Joseph and Penelope (Treworgy) Killgore. Along the way he discovered several family historians had already done major works which could be added to. With Roy acting as compiler of records, the links from the first generation to the tenth were made. By way of celebrating the 275th anniversary of Joseph Killgore's arrival in Kittery, Maine, in 1718, a family reunion was convened in Bethel in 1993 with descendants of each of his children, but one, attending. Interest in publishing this history was at its highest level. The resulting book with over 4400 individuals recorded is an impressive achievement.

The format used is known as the Modified Register System with identifying numbers by generation, approved by the National Genealogical Society. This system and a well-prepared index, alphabetical by surname including women's maiden, make it easy to trace one's lineage. "Notes & Sources" follow the individual's vital statistics. These notes provide additional personal information and human interest stories often written by the individual themselves. These sources, however, provide only a list of numbers which refer to another list in the back of the book. This list called "Sources of Information" is not cited in the standard manner. Sources should fully identify where data comes from so anyone trying to check back on the records can do so. Numerous photographs, maps, and letters further enhance the text, and Benjamin A. Kilgore has written a twenty page "History Narrative" to chronicle early movements of the first three generations of the northern lines of Kilgore in America.

Anyone researching families in northern New England may want to check the index of this book. Many old families have Kilgore connections. It would be important to also note Roy Killgore's advice in the introduction, "Future family historians should keep in mind that even the slightest tidbit of information can be extremely important in resolving a genealogical puzzle." The Bethel Historical Society has a hard cover copy as well as the notebooks containing preliminary family group sheets in its research library.

Barbara H. Honkala

*Editor's Note: Mrs. Honkala, a former Society trustee, is a member of the Publications Committee and a descendant of Amos Hastings, a contemporary of John Kilgore, the first First Selectman of Bethel.*

VT; Suzanne and Lincoln Fiske, Bethel; Richard M. & Joan Ford, Concord, MA; John B. Fox, Jr., West Newton, MA; Shirley B. & Marilyn Gilbert, West Bethel; Girl Scout Troop # 155; Leroy G. & John T. Green, Livermore, CA; Eben & Barbara Freeman, Bethel; Arthur R. & Ruth A. Gilbert, West Bethel; George and Betty Gilbert, Bethel, in memory of Guy L. Morrill, Robert & Lona Gilbert; Dillon & Paula Gillies, Bethel; Roger Godbout, Berlin, NH; Joan Edwards St. Clair Goodhew, Atlanta, GA, in memory of Dorothy Edwards St. Clair; Goodwin's Insurance, Inc., Norway; Robert W.

*(continued on page 6)*

Goodwin, Norway, in memory of Muriel Park Mason; Wilma Gorman, Bethel, in memory of Gardner Gorman; Pamela & Jeremiah Gotjen, Syracuse, NY, in memory of Mildred C. Thomas; Arthur B. Gottwald, Alexandria, VA; Marguerite B. Graham, Bethel; Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo & Co., Boston; Samuel E. Griffiths III, Jamison, PA, in memory of Ellason Downs; A. William and Susan Foster Hamill, Richmond, VA; Frances S. Harding, Bethel; Linda Harrington, Bethel; Mary Lee Harris, Naples, FL, in memory of Agnes Howe Bettinger; Carolyn Wight Harrison, Portland, in memory of Elizabeth Emery Wight & Ruth Emery Verville; Cathy Hart, Bangor, in memory of Lillian Bartlett; Colwyn F. & Judith E. Haskell, Bethel; Florence B. Hastings, Bethel, in memory of Dick Hastings; Walter & Carolyn Hatch, Bethel; John and Fumiko Head, Bethel, in memory of Olive Akers Head; Clayton & Helen Heath, Norway; Charles & Reona Heino, Boothbay, in memory of Robert Bean, Sr.; Ethel J. Herr, Bethel; Pamela S. Heydon, Wilton, CT; Dorothea J. Hitzrot, Topsham; Richard C. & Dolores B. Hoeh, Bethel in memory of Priscilla & Robert Hoeh and in honor of the marriage of Eileen Cavanaugh and George Escudante; Barbara and Rudi Honkala, in memory of Fay "Dick" Hastings; Kerry Mason Hood, Seekonk, MA, in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Mason; Kathy M. Hooke, Bethel, in memory of Sarah Aljada Cosseboom; Gabrielle M. Howe, Rockville, MD, in memory of Bill Howe; Greg and Sandy Howe, Gettysburg, PA, in memory of Edith K. Howe; Geraldine S. & Rodney K. Howe, Bethel, in memory of Don Brown & Lillian Bartlett; Stanley R. Howe, Bethel, in memory of Sandra Mason, Olive Head, Donald Brown, Euphemia Dick Hastings, Mary Folsom Champe, Ruby Emery, Althea Chase Gould Noyes, Ernest Perkins, Lillian Bartlett, Martha Von Zintl, Mervin Fairbanks, Evaline Kimball, Ellen Coffin, and James Dock; Harlan & Gertrude Hutchins, Bethel; Lee and Virginia Hutchins, Bethel, in memory of Gardner Smith; Robert S. & Barbara K. Ireland, Morrisville, VT; Richard K. & Marion E. Irey, Toledo, OH; Mildred E. Jackson, Bethel; Arlan & Eleanor Jodrey, Bethel, in memory of Norma R. Jodrey; Walter Jodrey, Gorham, NH, in memory of Melvin Jodrey; Charlotte K. Johnson, Westford, MA, in memory of Albert L. Johnson; Eleanor N. Johnson, Portland, in memory of Olive Head; Helen V. Judkins, Farmington, in memory of LTC Paul A. Judkins (1907-1995); Alice & Royden Keddy, Gorham, in memory of Donald S. Brown; Ronald & Marguerite Kendall, Bethel; Rebecca P. Kendall, Bethel; Earlon & Mary Paine, Bethel, in memory of Richard Crockett; Alden and Mabel Kennett, Bethel, in memory of Donald Brown; William H. Kieffer III, Bethel, in honor of George Noll; Elizabeth A. Kilgore, Interlachen, FL, in memory of the Kilgore Family; Roy & Cristina Killgore, Nipomo, CA, in memory of John Killgore & wife Elizabeth; Gerald M. Kimball, Gray; John & Margaret King, Lakeland, FL, in memory of the King Family; Herb & Ruth Kittredge, Hanover, in memory of Monique Rolfe; James D. Konkell, Portland; Helen Kraul, Portland, in memory of Karl O. Kraul & the A. Lowe Family; Harry & Barbara Kuzyk, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Thomas R. Lass, Bradenton, FL, in honor of Eva Ladd Schools; Edith M. Lawrence, Portland, in memory of Harold M. Lawrence; Rev. & Mrs. Clifford W. Laws, Kittery Point, in memory of our happy days in Bethel and friends we still remember; Daisy M. LeClair, Bethel, in memory of Syl LeClair; Susan LeClair, Bloomington, MN, in honor of Daisy LeClair; Will & Mary Leland, Berkeley Heights, NJ; Richard & Revae E. Leppanen, Lakeport, CA; Louise Lincoln, Bethel, in memory of Lillian Bartlett;



*A commercial float in the 1931 Indian Raid parade features Euphemia Dick Hastings (1908-1996) in a bathing suit that a number of observers found far too revealing for the times.*

Elizabeth S. Lord, Bethel; Arlene D. Lowell, Bethel, in memory of Wilbur A Davis & Lloyd B. Lowell; Carolyn McDormand, Bethel, in memory of Cleo A. Russell; E. W. MacGibbon, Palatka, FL; Barbara I. Mahler, Bethel; James & Ethel Mann, Lunenburg, MA, in memory of the Abbotts of Swan Hill; John R. Mason, D.D.S., Bethel; Geneva McCoy, Bethel, in memory of Samuel F. McCoy; Robert McCrea, Meriden, CT, in memory of Mary McCrea; E. Marna & James R. McGinniss, Bethel; Thomas A. McKay, Arlington, VA; Mrs. R.S. McMillin, Bethel, in memory of R.S. McMillin; Marguerite H. McNally, Hampden, in memory of Norma Jodrey; Sherry McNamee, Valrico, FL, in memory of Roy F. Hicks, Jr.; M. Heinie & Sharon B. Merrill, Bethel; Marjorie B. Menzies, Wellesley, MA, in memory of Ralph & Helen Berry, H. Eldredge Berry and Glenyce Berry Emery and daughter Melodie; Nancy H. Mercer, Bethel, in memory of James K. & Agnes H. Haines; Ruth Millelsen, Browns Valley, CA, in memory of my Maine "roots"; Edward L. & Mary A. Mills, Locke Mills, in memory of Zenus W. & Mary E. (Barker) Mills; Fred & Penny Milton, Oakdale, MA; Thomas H. Mitchell, Culver City, CA; Marilyn R. Mollicone, Augusta, in memory of Fred Q. Haines, Jr.; Grace P. Morrill, Bethel, in memory of Guy L. Morrill; Joann Mooney, London, UK, in honor of Stanley R. Howe; Helen Morton, Bethel, in memory of Sandy Mason & Dick Hastings; Herbert H. Morton III, Andover, MA; Bob & Bethia Newmarker, Tolland, CT; David & Jeanette Nichols, Milan, NH, in memory of Joseph & Tina Nichols; Portia M. Nichols, Mountain View, CA, in memory of her great grandmother Harriet Lydia McKenny (Albee) born in Bethel 26 September 1826; George & Danna & Kate Nickerson, Bethel, in memory of Donald S. Brown; Lucy Nordahl, Bethel; NTL Institute for APL BEH Science, Bethel; Hazel F. & Joseph E. O'Donnell, Newtonville, MA, in memory of Wallace Farwell; Tracy Giunta O'Donnell, Medfield, MA, in memory of Francis Warren Mills; Scott Oldakowski, Bethel; Chris & Les Otten, Bethel, in memory of Eric Wykoff Bennett; Mavin & Tineke Ouwinga, in memory of Elizabeth Zwolsman Hart; Earlon & Mary Paine, Bethel; Sarah S. Tucker & Robert C. Parente, Boston, MA, in memory of Andrew S. Tucker; Marilyn Parker, Milford, CT, in memory of Guy Parker, Jr.; Pat's Pizza, Bethel; John W. & Jane Champe, Baltimore, MD, in honor of Barbara Moore Lucas; Lillian Perkins, Bethel, in memory of Jim & Ernest Perkins; Henry A. Pevear, Jr., Danvers, MA; Persis G. Post, Bethel, in memory of Archie T. Post; Fourtin & Shirley Secord Powell, Rockland, in memory of Helen Bartlett Secord; Betty R. Prescott, Bangor, in memory of Evans &



Gladys Wilson; Eleanor L. Pugliese, Bethel, in memory of Anthony L. Pugliese; Norm and Joan Putnam, Bethel; Ken and Sarah Ramage, Bethel; Rath & Strong, Lexington, MA; Charles M. & Roberta S. Reed, Fullerton, CA; Beatrice R. Ritter, Torrington, CT; Henry & Elizabeth Robertson, Bethel; Frances Saunders, Bethel, in memory of Bells Miller and Addie Saunders; Mr. & Mrs. George Schexnayder, New Iberia, LA, in memory of Mary Orinda Wight; Eva Schools, Bethel; Charles F. Schraub, Green; Eric & Lucia Schwarz, Bethel; S.T. Seames, Locke Mills, in memory of Olive Head; Charles & Edith Seashore, Columbia, MD; Susan & Lois Shorrock, Amherst, NH, in memory of Dick Hastings; Martin W. Silver, Norway, in memory of Rose Woods Silver; Roxanne T. Sly, Brooklin; Arthur J. Smith, San Mateo, CA, in memory of relatives; Mr. & Mrs. C. Gerald Spalding, Tewksbury, MA, in memory of Wallace L. Farwell; Charles & Bunny Stevens, Scarborough; Doris H. & Alfred C. Stevens, Roxford, NY; Clyde & Bertha Stevens, Bethel, in memory of Walter & Hazel Newell; Tom & Dorothy Post Stevens, E. Greenwich, RI, in memory of Archie T. Post; Ranald & Sarah Stevens, Bethel, in memory of our brothers and sisters; Pat & Henry Stewart, Boston, MA; Robert B. & Joanne Peabody Stewart, Portland, in memory of Mary Peabody Grove; Janet and Dexter Stowell, Bethel; Jonathan H. & Rowena G. Stowell, Shirley, MA; Michael S. Stowell, Lovettsville, VA, in honor of Zachariah Stowell Zooleck & Molly Joy Bartlett; Jane Sullivan, Portland; Violet & Robert Swain, East Andover; in memory of Lucie Morse Swain; Muriel B. Thompson, W. Springfield, MA, in memory of her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Brinck & her sister Evelyn Cockburn; Clara H. Thurston, Fryeburg; John A. Thurston, Bethel; Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Bethel, in memory of Mary Tibbetts and Mary Champe; The Trinward Family, North Waterford, in memory of Hazel Trinward; Edmond & Sudie Vachon, Bethel; Stephen Verrill, Concord, MA, in memory of Floyd and Mary Verrill; Jerry and Shireen Vincent, Bethel; Mrs. Robert G. Von Bernuth, North Conway, NH; Margaret S. Ward, King of Prussia, PA, in memory of the William Farwell family; Robert Wending, Sr., Huntington Valley, PA, in honor of Sunday River Inn; Erland S. & Margaret R. Wentzell, East Sebago; Western Maine Supply Co., Inc., Bethel; Les Whall, Salt Lake City, UT, in memory of Marzee York Whall; Mary Wheeler, Bethel; Maynard H. White, Haverhill, MA, in memory of Bill & Levine Lowe; Elizabeth Whiteman, Philadelphia, PA; Joan T. Wiese, Bethel; Margaret K. & Stephen W. Wight, Bethel; Owen & Sue Wight, Newry; Ruth W. Wight, Bethel; Willard & Sylvia Wight, Newry; William W. & Jacqueline Wilkins, Longwood, FL, in memory of Lucia Wilson & Grace Merrill; Nancy Willard, Bryant Pond; Ronald and Joan A. Willard, Falls Church, VA, in memory of Jay & Melva Willard; Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Williams, Spruce Head, in memory of Herbert Shirrefs of Spruce Head; Dennis & Rita Wilson, Bethel; Elizabeth Woronzoff, Bethel, in memory of Roman Woronzoff; Edna M. York, Bethel, in memory of Horace H. Annas; Dr. & Mrs. Robert York, Orrs Island, in honor of Stan Howe, one of my best students; Raymond E. & Dee A. York, Camarillo, CA, in memory of Margaret Thayer Sward

### THE BETHEL SOLDIERS OF '61

*From the pages of the Oxford Advertiser, 30 July 1886, compiled by Judge C. F. Whitman of Norway.*

Maj. Gen. Ben Butler for his military successes at Baltimore and Annapolis, Maryland, was placed in command of the District of Fortress Monroe, in which was

### 1997 MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

January 2, "Celebrations, Festivals and Observances in Bethel's Past, 1855-1996," Stanley R. Howe, Director, Bethel Historical Society; February 6, Annual Historical Film Night; March 6, Oral History Night: The Korean Conflict, Panel Discussion; April 3, Oral History Night: Frank Edward Hanscom, Gould Headmaster, 1897-1936, Panel Discussion; May 1, "The Littlefield Murders: A Sixty Year Perspective," Margaret LaCombe; June 5, "History of the Bryant Pond Telephone Company," Michael Hathaway; July 3, Annual Picnic, NTL Conference Center, Broad Street, Oral History Panel: "A Half Century of NTL in Bethel"; August 7, East Bethel Church, "Rev. Paul Coffin in the Bethel Area, 1797," Ben B. Conant, Curator, Paris Cape Historical Society; September 4, 32nd Annual Meeting, Pot Luck Supper, "Margaret Chase Smith (1897-1995): A Centennial Appraisal," David Richards, Assistant Director, Margaret Chase Library; October 2, Annual "What's It" Night; November 6, Oral History Night: Louise Dickinson Rich; December 4, Annual "Christmas with the Masons." All meetings begin at 7:30 P.M. and are open to the public without charge. The annual picnic in July will begin at 6 P.M. and the pot luck supper in September will be held at 6:30 P.M. Except for the July and August dates, all meetings are held in the meeting room of the Dr. Moses Mason House, 14 Broad Street.

*(Bethel Soldiers)*

fought the 10th of June, the disastrous skirmish of Big Bethel, resulting in the death of Major Theodore Winthrop, once a relative of Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, formerly a representative from Massachusetts in Congress and Whig Speaker of the House.

Of itself, it was a trifling affair, but coming at the time it did, when the county was on the tiptoes of expectation and anxious for success in the first conflicts that should take place, it was a great calamity. Gen. Butler was not in immediate command, but he was blamed as roundly as before he had been praised for what he had done in the vicinity of Baltimore. He was soon displaced from command of the District by Gen. Wool, one of the heroes of the Mexican War. Gen. Butler, however, while in authority had cut the "Gordian Knot" of the Slave Problem, by proclaiming that the slaves of Rebels were contraband of war.

After being superseded, his friends advised him to go home, but he declined. He asked Gen. Wool for something to do, and that officer gave him command of the troops outside the Fortress. Full of schemes, he set on foot the expedition against Hatteras Inlet, on the North Carolina Coast, and with less than a thousand men he captured a fort and garrisoned it. At once Big Bethel was forgotten, and Gen. Butler's praise was again on every lip. I well recollect the boom made over it in the newspaper of that day, particularly a cartoon in Harper's Weekly of an old Rebel driving team along the road toward Washington, while a cross-eyed boy behind his wagon set a bunch of fire-crackers afire in a corner of the vehicle, marked "Hatteras Inlet." The following heading was over the cut: "While ole Mr. Secesh is on his way to Washington, that mischievous boy, Butler, puts a firecracker in his tail."

Expeditions to the Southern coast at once became popular. Gen. Butler with a view of operating on the Virginia peninsula, applied to the War Department for authority to

*(continued on page 8)*

raise six regiments in New England for special service. Supposing that Gen. Butler could strike a vein of Hunker Democrats which would yield good results according to Parton in his History of the Department of the Gulf, his application was granted, and he at once put himself in communication with trusted lieutenants, who immediately began recruiting. Parton says: "His activity was wonderful. One day we see him addressing a Legislature, the next conferring with a Governor, another haranguing the troops, then consulting with officers, now in Vermont, tomorrow in Maine, the next day in New Hampshire. Men flocked in. In a month he would have been ready to march, but for one powerful opposing influence which emanated from the state house at Boston."

In Maine such Democrats as Geo. F. Shepley of Portland, son of Judge Ether Shepley, Wm. K. Kimball of Paris, once U.S. Marshall for the district of Maine, D.R. Hastings, then practicing lawyer at Lovell, and G.A. Hastings of Bethel, rallied to his standard, and the result was the organizing of the 12th Maine Volunteers. Shepley was commissioned Col., Kimball Lieut. Col., D.R. Hastings Major, while G.A. Hastings was largely instrumental in organizing a company from Bethel which became Co. A. It was mustered into service Nov. 15, 1861 with the following officers and men from Bethel: Captain-G.A. Hastings; Sergeants-Wm. H. Brown, Timothy Brown; Corporals-A.M. True, Wm. C. Frye, E. G. Grover; Musicians-F.O. Gerrish, Joseph T. Chapman; Privates-John M. Barker, R.B. Bean, S.M.Bean, Newell Cook, John Cooper, Adelbert Grover, John Grover, Jr., Simon Grover, Moses F. Kimball, Frances Mitchell, Wm. Richardson, Geo. W. Smith, Chas. R. Ryerson, Otis Peverly. In Company G. were privates Hazen W. Grover, Francis O. Hall, Orlando E. Harder and James E. Ayer.

There were other officers in the 12th Maine besides Hunker Democrats, and curiously enough, two Southern Governors of returning Board fame in 1876-77 were also officers in the Regiment: Stephen B. Packard of Auburn was Second Lieut. in Co. G. and Marcellus L. Stearns of Lovell was orderly Serg't. in Co. E. The latter was afterwards promoted to Lieut., and Packard became Capt. of Co. B.

There were such obstacles thrown in Gen. Butler's way as indicated in the quotation from Parton., that before he had his six regiments ready for service, Gen. Dix had been assigned the duty which Gen. Butler had expected to perform. This was unfortunate in more senses than one. Gen. Butler, intending not to be deprived of having a department of his own somewhere, went to Washington, and with a view of striking a blow on the Texas coast or at Mobile, got permission to rendezvous at Ship Island, Miss., and Gen. Phelps with 2000 troops was sent to take and hold it. The Mason and Slidell affair came very near breaking up the expedition, but upon their release, on the demand of the British government, Gen. Butler was not further delayed. Two thousand of his troops were already on Ship Island, as many more were in the vicinity of Fortress Monroe, on the ship Constitution, and 8500 in New England ready to move when the order should be given.

Having a talk with the Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton, Gen. Butler was asked why New Orleans couldn't be captured. "It can," was the emphatic response. But

Gen. McClellan being asked his opinion of the feasibility of the report that it would require 50,000 troops, and that no such number could be spared. But President Lincoln decided otherwise and with only one-fourth the number of men, including those already gone, McClellan thought necessary, Gen. Butler started. "Good-bye Mr. President," said he. "We shall take New Orleans or you will never see me again." "The man who takes New Orleans is made a Lieut. Gen'l," remarked the Secretary of War. He wasn't however, but Capt. D.G. Farragut, who is generally given the credit of capturing the city, afterward, for meritorious service was promoted to Admiral in the Navy, a rank equal to that of Lieut. Gen'l.

The 12th Maine Regiment, upon being mustered into the service, was sent to Lowell, Mass., where it was encamped for several weeks, and was transported to Ship Island, at which place it arrived on the 12th of February 1862, and Col. Shepley took command of the post, acting as Brig. Gen'l.

Ship Island is about seven miles long and three-fourths of a mile wide, lying some sixty miles from New Orleans, one hundred from the mouth of the Mississippi, fifty miles from Mobile and ten from the mainland. "It is a long wave of the whitest, finest sand that glistens in the sun, and drifts before the wind like the New England snow." It lies low and flat, and when covered with tents presented the appearance of a floating camp. It was never in favor with the soldiers, and one of them on first seeing it from the deck of the transport is said to have repeated the following couplet, from Watts, "Lord, what a wretched land is that which yields us no supplies."

Gen. Phelps was a strict disciplinarian, and was assiduous in drilling his troops, but he had a horror for anything fantastic or out of the ordinary line. While a Zouave Reg't from N.Y. one day was being drilled, he noticed one of them pompously passing his tent. "Stop, Sir," he said, in a squeaky voice, "What do you belong to?" "The \_N.Y.," promptly answered the Zouave with a salute. "Oh," replied the Gen'l contemptuously turning his back. "I thought you were a clown in some circus." Often after that when a Maine soldier saw a Zouave, he would say "There goes one of Phelps's clowns."

A Capt. while on parade, not performing his duties according to Gen. Phelps's wishes, was addressed by that officer as follows: "Capt., what was your business before you came into the army?" "A carpenter, Gen'l," was the response. "Well Sir, why didn't you stick to your business?" The Capt. afterward became a very efficient officer.

*(to be continued in the next issue)*

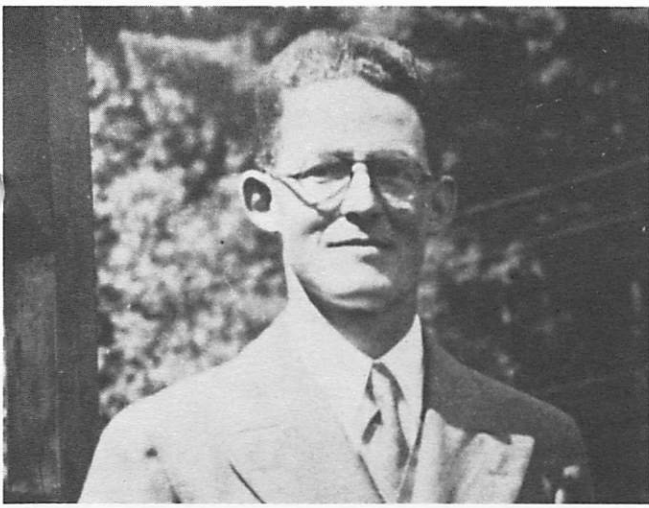
## EDITOR'S CORNER

Several readers noticed in the last issue that the photos for the Ginther and the Bisbee houses got reversed due to a printer's error. We regret any confusion this may have caused.

In this issue we begin a new publishing venture with the appearance of the diaries of William Straw Hastings. These are but one more example of the rich resources of the Society's collection. Those interested in learning more about this collection are urged to contact the Society or better yet come and visit the research room.

SRH





William Straw Hastings (1901-1943)

## DIARY OF WILLIAM S. HASTINGS

*Editor's Note: William Straw Hastings (1901-1943) was born in East Bethel, the second son of George and Mary Fifield Hastings. He attended the University of Maine for the two year course in agriculture and worked with his father and brother (Robert D. Hastings) on the home farm in East Bethel. He was also a land surveyor. In 1923, he married Ruth Cole (1901-1981) and built a bungalow house beside the home place. His children Barbara, born in 1927, William, born in 1929, and Edward, born 1934, live today in three different states. Much appreciation is expressed to Barbara Hastings Honkola for transcribing the diary and making it available for publication at this time.*

At the beginning of his diary, Hastings describes the farm his family operates:

This farm consists of about 75 acres of cultivated land situated in Bethel near the easterly end of said town and on the intervale on the south side of the Androscoggin River. This is without doubt the most fertile land in State. All crops grow well here although we are pretty far North for corn to mature well. Potatoes are the main crop on this farm and at this time we have 21 and a half acres planted. 1933-22 acres, 1932-18 acres, 1931- 15 acres, 1930-acres, and so on. We plow and harrow about 35 acres every year. And as the old fellar said, " We work like h--- all year for a big pile of 'dressing.' " Maybe not quite as bad as that, but farming is no get rich quick scheme.

We have a lot of woodland and the whole farm has probably 250 to 300 acres. Fairly well equipped with machinery including Farmall tractor and cultivator, plows, harrows, potato planter, sprayer, and digger, manure spreader, mower, rake, etc. Ford ton and a half truck and two cars.

Modern equipment in the houses including electricty installed in October 1929, bathrooms and running water. I have a bungalow (7 rooms and bath) built in 1923 and this year I built a larger shed and enlarged the kitchen and added a laundry. Also have a carpenter shop in the shed.

*Editor's note: The diary begins on February 12, 1934:*

February 12, Fair and warm after a record cold week. Down to 25 and 35 deg. below zero and wind on some days. Cutting birch limbs for wood. Hauled 27 and half cords to L. Mills and B. Pond last week. Bob [ his brother] in Portland with spuds. Price \$1.85-\$1.95 per 100 lbs. about

1000 bu. left. Feb. 13, Snowing A.M. and colder P.M. Put up 300 bu. potatoes today. Feb. 14, Colder -6 deg. and windy. Felt rotten and hung up for two days. Burning green wood in furnace. Feb. 15, +10 deg. Snowing. Hauled firewood. Bob in Portland, windy P.M. Feb. 16, 0 deg. Windy. Hauled wood to school house and hauled birch. Unloaded 3 tons 5-8-7 fertilizer. Bob is trucking it from Portland. Price (Fall) \$38. We pay about \$28. Feb. 17, -18 deg. and -38 deg. at Swan's [Russell Swan's across from East Bethel Church] and cold. Hauled firewood and cut ash for wood. Feb. 18, Fair and warm. First day that the snow has softened up this year. Quiet day at home. Have hauled 14 loads of birch limbs from Leslie's [Noyes] cutting. Feb. 19, Fair and warm. Cutting cordwood. Weather breeder. Feb. 20, The weather arrived. Nor'east blizzard lasted all day and then the wind shifted and blew all night. Roads are plugged full. 10 in. snow. Spuds quoted \$2 per cwt. at Hannafords. Feb. 21, Wind still blows. Feb. 22, Fair and warmer. Went to Portland with spuds for Johnson. \$2 per cwt. Everything closed on account of the holiday. Roads in fair condition. Snow storm caught me on way home. Feb. 23, Snowed 4 or 5 inches. Two feet in Aroostook. Then blew a gale all day. Huge drifts. Put up a load of spuds. Feb. 24, Colder and windy. Drifting worse than ever. Plow came thru last night. Bitter day. Went in and cut cord wood in a.m. Feb. 25, Fair and warmer. Went to Greenwood. Saw their new Deisel 35 plow. Good rig. Weather breeder. Started snowing before midnight. Feb. 26, Still snowing from nor-east. Hauled birch one load and two loads to B. Pond. Had hard work to get truck home through drifts. If this wind blows--!!! Feb. 27, It blew! Roads all plugged for a day. Cut cord wood. Snow is about 35" deep. Feb. 28, Bob sent to Portland. Spuds are \$2.25 per cwt. We hauled logs. Bob brought 5 and a quarter M of Extra No. 1 shingles. Price \$2.75 per M. I got 10 and a quarter M last week. 2nd clears \$3.50 per M.

Mar. 1, Fair and warm. Put up spuds. Bob in Portland. Spuds \$2.35 cwt. Mar. 2, Warm. Bob in Portland. \$2.40 per cwt. Mar. 3, Raining and warm. Hauling and sawing lumber. Snow going fast. Mar. 4, Sunday. Went to Greenwood. Mar. 5, Town Meeting. Still warm. Mar. 6, Warm. Sticking lumber. Bob in Portland. \$2.25 cwt. Mar. 7, Bob in Portland again. Prices way off. \$2 per cwt. offered. Mar. 8, Hauling birch. Snow has dropped down to two feet or so. Road is rotten. Hard job to keep on it. Mar. 9, Cooler. Road good. Birch. Mar. 10, Finished birch. 34 cords in all. 19.5 Stowells, 14 at Tibbetts, 3/8 waste. Mar. 11, Went to Greenwood. Snowed all day. Road rough. Mar. 12, Cutting cord wood. Cooler. Mar. 13, Cutting cordwood. Cooler. Mar. 14, Cut and hauled 2 cords between 8:45 a.m. and 4 P.M. Makes 10 cords hauled. Mar. 15, Warmer. Bob in Portland. [He] got stuck in the ice and water in the swamp and did not leave Tirrels until 11 a.m. Cord wood and limb wood. Sold a ton of hay to Dan Hill. Will Seames hauled it. Mar. 16, Fair and warm. I hauled cordwood from Leslie's [Noyes] cuttings. He finished cutting. 40 cords in all. 6 and a half cordwood. Mar. 17, We broke camp today. Finished hauling. This last week we hauled out about 11 loads. All loads a cord or over. At least two loads were one and half cords. Have about 20 cords of 4 ft. wood in pasture. Mar. 18, It was 50 deg. in the morning. Much colder at night. I cleaned the shed. Bob's family in Bowdoinham. Mar. 19 Just 10 deg. Hauled last of logs to mill. Put up spuds. Mar. 20, Just 10 deg. Cold and a snow storm brewing. Mar. 21, 10 deg. Cold. Bob went to Portland. We took shingles off two walls of shed. Mar. 22, 4 deg. above zero. Wind howling. Cold

(continued on page 10)

*(Hastings Diary, continued from page 9)*

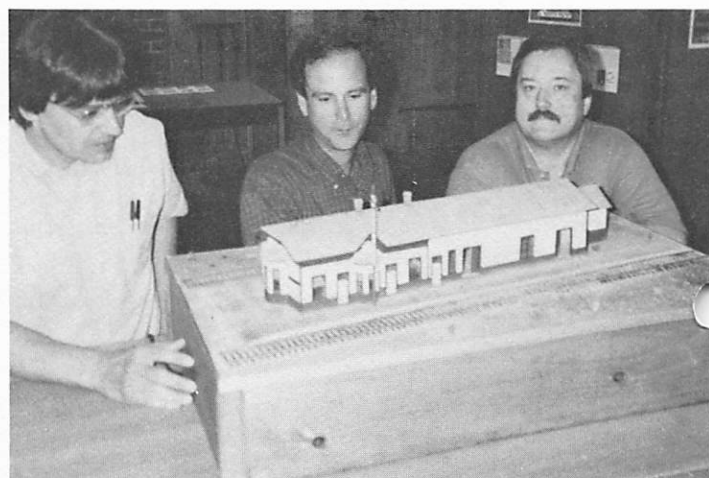
miserable day. Put up spuds. Mar. 23, Cold and windy. Hauled wood to schoolhouse. Mar. 24, Cold. Killed pig. Bob in city. Went to [Guy and Rose] Bartlett silver wedding. Snowing. Mar. 25, About two inches of snow. Warmer today. Bob gone to Bowdoinham after eggs. I started two incubators. All ready to begin work on my shed tomorrow morning. Mar. 26, Clarence Perham came and we started building the shed. Framed sills and floor timbers and laid sills. Shed 36' X 17' 10" and 9' posted. Mar. 27, Warm. We laid floor and set studs on two sides. Boarded one side. Mar. 28, Snowing great guns. Boarded walls. Clarence arrived at noon and we framed back porch. Prince[work horse] is sick. Mar. 29, Old Prince died last night. Have expected it for years. However we have had him for 17 years. He must have been 22 or 23 years old. Framed rafters. Mar. 30, Wrecked shed and finished studding. Put up common rafters. Saw first robin of season. Mar. 31, Boarded roof, set jack rafters, framed A roof between shed and house and shingled up the gutter. Apr. 1, Raining hard. Shed is a wet place. Apr. 2, Clarence didn't come today. We layed floor and moved wood. Apr. 3, Hanging finish and shingling. Fine weather. Apr. 4, Same job. Apr. 5, Changed soil stack. Clarence went to W. Paris in p.m. to look at Oxford Co. job. I finished the shingling on the roof in p.m. Started the walls. Have had extra fine weather for this shed job. The snow is about half gone. All bare around the doorway. Apr. 6, Built door and hung it up. Apr. 7, Working on shed. Apr. 8, Wired and installed lights. Worked hard all day [even] if it was Sunday. Never again! Apr. 9, All in. Made mistakes all day. Next Sunday I'll rest. Apr. 10, Clarence went home tonight. Apr. 11, Clarence didn't arrive until afternoon today. I built nosing, shingled, etc. Apr. 12, Rained all day. Nor'easter with gale. Wind blew 224 miles per hour [according to official sources it was 231 miles per hour] on Mt. Washington for a new record. We put up sheetrock and tore out old kitchen wall. Apr. 13, Finished sheetrock and cased windows and doors. Apr. 14, Laid floor. Weather mild and wet. April showers. Snow is about gone. Roads drying up. Apr. 15, Went to Greenwood. Roads passable but muddy from here to L. Mills. Got stuck in mud hole coming home. Played golf, tennis, and shot the rifle. Apr. 16, Earthquake shock at 4:30 a.m. Woke us up. Warm and wet. Put in doors and floors. Apr. 17, Fair and cooler. Moved set tubs and changed two 20" X 20" windows for 20" X 18" over sink. First frogs of the season today. Pond opened yesterday. Over 800 chicks hatched today. Apr. 18, Set up sink. Ran streamline copper pipes to set tubs. Apr. 19, Connected drain from sink and tubs. Made steps. Apr. 20, Laid small porch floor in a.m. Built a set of three drawers in Bob's bathroom in p.m. Clarence went home. Apr. 21, Worked at Farwell's [neighbor Porter Farwell's farm just up the road] putting in a bulkhead and cellar wall. Apr. 22, Laid under floor on back porch. Apr. 23, Finished Farwell's job. Shingled corners on shed, put up porch rail and cap. Apr. 24, Wet and rainy. Sawed wood in p.m. Apr. 25, Rained all last night. We finished our wood and moved to John's [Howe, his cousin across the road]. Colder and windy. Roads are still bad out in the swamp. Cold, late spring. Land is still wet and can't be worked. Spuds dropping every day. \$1.65 per cwt at Johnsons. Apr. 26, Finished wood. Split on our wood. Apr. 27, Finished splitting our wood. Apr. 28, Went to Bethel and led home [nine miles] a horse from Marsh Hastings. Just to keep until June. Big gray, weighs 1700 or over. Kind, clever and good worker. Apr. 29, Went to Greenwood.

Roads rough but passable. Had first boat ride. Apr. 30, Started farming. Hauled manure and plowed garden. [Sherman] Newton hauled manure for us one half day.

*(To be continued in the next issue)*



*House built by William Straw Hastings in 1923 now owned by his nephew and wife Robert W. and Bettyann Hastings.*



*Society Curator of Collections Randall Bennett (left), President Charles Raymond (center), builder and donor James Auman (right) pose with the model of the Bethel railroad station that once stood on Bethel's Railroad Street prior to its demolition in 1968.*

## RECENT GIFTS

Beginning with this issue of the Courier, we will attempt to highlight some of the many donations of artifacts made during the year to the Society's permanent collection. This list will underscore the pressing need to increase the space necessary to store and care for these items: Stephen Seames, genealogies of the Whitney and Leighton families, a dairy account book, Massachusetts town histories, numerous pamphlets relating to Andover, Woodstock, and Bethel, Maine topics; Alice Seymour, books by D.B. Wight; John E. Jacobsen, Jr., genealogy of the Abbott and Davis families; Hope Tibbetts, paper ephemera relating to the Bethel area; Barbara D. Brown, vinyl bag containing numerous brochures and labeled "I Rode the First Ski Train to Bethel"; Jane Hosterman, collection of genealogical and historical booklets, a history of the West Bethel Union Church, and wall map of Massachusetts ca. 1900; Mary H. Parsons, transcript of the diaries of Persis Sibley Andrews Black of Paris, Maine for



1842 and 1851-64; Ann Miller Morin, oral history interview transcript made of Hon. Margaret Joy Tibbetts, former U.S. Ambassador to Norway; Martin Silver, collection of photos relating to the Howe family of North Rumford, various machines including one for boring, barbed wire tightener, World War II "Liberty Loan" posters, flail, post hole digger, baseball bat made by George Silver, and 1885 mantle clock; Cynthis A. Mason and Catherine G. Dorion, ladder-back chair, prints of 19th century ladies' fashions, 19th century dress, collection of sewing implements; Janina Foster, Bethel area photos and ephemera, genealogical materials collected by her mother Jeannette Sanborn Potsaid; Ben Conant, 1870 Federal Census and a 1902 New Portland register; Boise Cascade, revised edition of the history of the company; Justin Gilbert, first day cover of Telstar satellite station; Jim and Pat Hudson, Bethel photographs and 1938 map of Oxford County; Allan and Ann Carlson, slides of Bethel area; Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., publications of the Bethel Inn, 1939-40; Phyllis Blake, oil painting of Artist's Bridge by Mary Shaw, Bethel area photos and ephemera; Michael S. Stowell, sign from Stan Fox barber shop, Bethel area and Gould Academy ephemera, World War II ration books, and framed painting by Mary Shaw of "The Hideaway"; John Head, history of the 16th Maine Regiment during the Civil War; J. Maynard Austin, framed Guy Shorey photo, watercolor of blacksmith shop in Bethel village, phonograph and box of records; Sue Howe, collection of old cookbooks; Earl Hutchinson, recent photos of Bethel Hill; Sally Taylor, sheet music ca. 1909; Sue Fiske, items relating to Paul Clemens' marionette studios in Bethel and Hanover; John and Paula Stanley, quilt from the Russell/Stanley family of Bethel; Argot Wright, 26 scrapbooks of clippings relating to Western Maine; Norris Brown, hand cultivator; Michael Lovejoy, framed collection of Oxford County Agricultural Society tickets (1870); William Bryant, genealogy of the Bryant family of Maine and Massachusetts; Sally Rand, large photo of people on the Bethel Common; Doris Fraser, commemorative brochure of Bethel Inn's 50th anniversary; Allan Fraser, Maine postcards, photos, and ephemera; Fred and Marion Bither, 2 mounted photos of

Farwell farms in East Bethel; Sharon Bennett, typescript of Roy Bennett's Newry cemetery book; Steve Woodside, framed 1896 photo of largest elm in Maine at Northwest Bethel; George Seward, Seward family genealogy; Wayne Gilman, early New Hampshire histories and Gilman genealogy; Otis Bartlett, 1891 Mt. Abram Lodge, I.O.O.F. certificate; Michael Hathaway, copy of his history of the Bryant Pond Telephone Company; Adolf Honkala, 1862 Maine agricultural report; Fryeburg Historical Society, genealogical and historical books; Pownal Scenic and Historical Society, 1889 South Bethel handwritten newspaper; Berkeley Henley, directory of Oxford and Cumberland county cemeteries; Ruth Grover, 1883 metal flag holder; Basil Sequin, Buckfield record books and Harry Lyon of Paris Hill article; John K. Brown, supper tickers used by Bethel Townsend Club; Stanley R. Howe, Abenaki dictionary, books on Oxford County marriages and 1790 Maine families. Much gratitude is expressed to everyone who made these donations possible.



*In June 1996, one of Bethel's oldest surviving commercial landmarks, the former finishing building of the Bethel Chair Company was demolished and burned. Built in 1898 to replace a building that burned on Main Street, the structure was just two years short of its centenary.*

### Join the Bethel Historical Society, Western Maine's historical research center.

Membership in the Society entitles you to:

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## MEMBER PROFILE

This space is dedicated to all the splendid volunteers who make the mailing of the Courier possible. Shown below working on a recent mailing with Society office secretary Mildred Jackson are clockwise June Abbott, Bessie Bennett, Mona Lowe, Virginia Hutchins, Lucia Schwarz, Mrs. Jackson, and Alan Abbott. Others who assist with mailings are Elizabeth Robertson, Dorothy Bartlett, and Grace Douglass.



## SOCIETY RECEIVES GRANT FROM EXXON FOR COMPUTER

A \$1000 grant from the Exxon Volunteer Involvement Fund has been received by the Society toward the purchase of a computer and other equipment. This was made possible through Walter Hatch, Society president, who is an Exxon annuitant and a very active volunteer.

"We are indeed very grateful to Walter and to Exxon for this support," Charles Raymond, Society Board of Trustees chairman, said. "It will be very helpful in our computerization of Society operations this year," he added.

For the past several months, the Computer Committee consisting of Lorrie Hoeh, Rebecca Kendall, June Abbott, Theodore Chadbourne, Shireen Vincent, and Donald Bennett has been meeting to determine the best computer choices for the Society.

Contributions are still being sought to help fund this equipment. Anyone wishing to make a tax deductible contribution to the Society is urged to do so by sending it to P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217.



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